

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 16, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner has objected to the title as not being sufficiently descriptive. A proposed title is set forth in the attached Appendix.

Turning to the merits of the Office Action, claims 1-10 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mack (U.S.P. 6,510,325) in view of Erkkila (U.S.P. 6,480,724). Applicant respectfully submits the following comments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Applicant's invention relates to a modular communication device. Conventional devices used for video communications include a single LCD display which does not adequately output a high quality image. If a larger device is used for the display, the power consumption is exceedingly high, and if the characters become superposed on the image in the single display, the character data is not easily discernible. Applicant's invention overcomes these deficiencies.

In the exemplary embodiments, the communication device includes a communication device for transmitting and receiving image data and character data, a storage device for storing the image and character data received by the communication device, a display device for characters and a device for displaying images stored in the storage device, and a display control that controls each display.

Turning to the cited art, Mack relates to a portable phone including a camera that can be used for anti-theft purposes. Mack suggests that it may be possible to include two displays, including an LCD and an active matrix display. The active matrix can be used either as a video phone or as a terminal for a computer.

Erkkila relates to a modular system whereby a base host system can be augmented with modular features, such as a digital camera. The general objective of the reference is to provide a minimum platform upon which a user can add features as desired. Thus, the base platform does not include excess capacity that may never be used. See Abstract. Erkkila generally teaches that the images captured by a modular camera can be recorded, but does not indicate that the images are transmitted or received. The transmission system of Erkkila comprises a ASIC device for digital modulation (Fig. 5, element 58), which is connected to a radio frequency component 59. The camera becomes interoperable with the base system through an interface 50. The modular camera appears to merely provide an additional feature that can be added to capture digital images. Erkkila does not specifically suggest the reception or transmission of the digital images.

The Examiner maintains that the combination of Mack and Erkkila teaches or suggests each feature of independent claim 1. Applicant submits that the rejection of independent claim 1 is deficient for at least the following four reasons.

First, claim 1 describes a display control device that controls the image display device and the character display device. The Examiner cites a touch control pad as teaching this aspect of the claim. However, the control pad merely provides a user input when the device is being

operated as a data terminal. Therefore, while the touch pad may provide a form of control, there is no explicit teaching that the character display and the image display become controlled by the touch pad.

Second, the Examiner concedes that Mack does not teach a storage device for capturing image data received by the communicating device. The Examiner cites Erkkila to make up for this deficiency, relying in particular on cols. 7-8 of the reference. Though Erkkila includes a camera feature and associated storage, the combination does not make up for the above deficiency of Mack. Moreover, Erkkila does not teach a storage device that stores image data received by a communication device. The stored images in Erkkila result from the camera function and not from reception of image signals through a communication device. The reference is silent as to the demodulation abilities of the both the ASIC device and the camera expansion card with respect to the framing requirements for image transmission. Therefore, Applicant submits that the reception of image data does not occur in Erkkila and thus a storage device which stores image data as a result of such a reception also cannot be present in the reference.

Third, as a related matter, the storage device described by claim 1 stores image and character data received by the communication device. To the extent Erkkila teaches storage of image data, the Examiner has not indicated how the combination of Mack and Erkkila further teaches a storage device for the character data received by a communication device. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable for at least the above reasons. In essence, the combination lacks the inter-relationships of the claim elements and it would not be obvious to provide the inter-relationships without a redesign of the references.

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Fourth, as amended, the independent claim describes a still image. By contrast, Mack describes a videophone of moving images. The remaining claims are patentable based on their dependency.

With further regard to claim 4, this claim describes features of the displays as comprising a black and white and a color display. The Examiner cites col. 4 of Mack to teach this feature. The cited portion merely describes an LCD and an active matrix display. This disclosure does not require either display to be a color display. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable for this additional reason.

Claims 11-28 are added to describe features of the invention more particularly.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

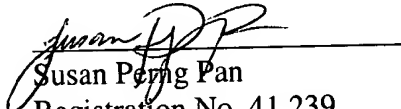
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